

injured harbor worker who later consults his own physician, no claim for such medical or surgical treatment shall be valid or enforceable against the employer unless within twenty days following the first treatment the physician giving such treatment furnish to the employer and the deputy commissioner a report of such injury and treatment, on a form prescribed by the commission. The form referred to is a form prepared by the United States Employees' Compensation Commission for surgical reports bearing the number U. S. 204. Supplies of this form can be obtained from this office upon request. The form itself carries information concerning this requirement.

The United States Longshoremen's and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act was passed by Congress on March 4, 1927, and took effect July 1, 1927. It applies to all persons performing service upon vessels and shipping upon navigable waters except the master and members of the crews of such vessels. Its provisions parallel fairly closely those of the California Workmen's Compensation Act, but occasional divergences will be noted. It is administered by fourteen deputy commissioners throughout the United States, California being in District No. 13, the headquarters of which are at 518 Mills Building, San Francisco, California.

Thanking you for placing this information before such physicians as are likely to treat industrial cases coming under this law, I remain

Yours very truly,
WARREN H. PILLSBURY,
Deputy Commissioner.

MEDICAL ECONOMICS

Commission on Medical Economics—Committees Appointed—President A. Lawrence Lowell, chairman of the Commission on Medical Education, has appointed the following committees of the Commission to deal with certain groups of problems:

Committee on Premedical Training—Chancellor Samuel P. Capen (chairman), University of Buffalo; Dean Henry G. Gale, University of Chicago; President Walter A. Jessup, University of Iowa; President Clarence C. Little, University of Michigan; Professor Leon B. Richardson, Dartmouth College.

Committee on Training in the Medical Sciences—Professor Lafayette B. Mendel (chairman), Yale University; Professor John J. R. Macleod, University of Toronto; Professor Charles R. Stockard, Cornell Medical School; Professor George H. Whipple, University of Rochester Medical School; Professor Hans Zinsser, Harvard Medical School.

Committee on Clinical Training—Dean David L. Edsall (chairman), Harvard Medical School; Professor George Blumer, Yale Medical School; Dean Hugh Cabot, University of Michigan Medical School; Professor Elliott Cutler, Western Reserve Medical School; Professor George E. de Schweinitz, University of Pennsylvania; Professor Charles P. Emerson, Indiana University Medical School; Professor Benjamin P. Watson, Columbia University Medical School.

Dr. Willard C. Rappleye, director of study of the Commission is secretary of each of these committees.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO *

EXCERPTS FROM OUR STATE MEDICAL JOURNAL

Volume 1, No. 6, April, 1903

From the veto message of the osteopath bill by Governor Heber M. Wells of Utah, March 16, 1903: . . . Practice in medicine:

Whatever the term or nature of the tenets of the particular school which this bill aims to recognize, its

* This column aims to mirror the work and aims of colleagues who bore the brunt of state society work some twenty-five years ago. It is hoped that such presentation will be of interest to both old and recent members.

practice must, it seems to me, be considered a branch of the science of medicine. After all, the physician, of whatever school or designation, has to deal with the same physiology, the same conditions, the same laws of cause and effect, in health and disease. All practitioners may not have the same knowledge and the same skill, yet our statutes have wisely provided, as a matter of public policy and protection, that a certain amount of skilled knowledge all of them must have. . . .

. . . Safeguards swept away:

Science is progressive; advancement cannot be stayed, in the art of healing, least of all; and the dogmatism of disputants, whether in medicine or anything else, must soon yield to the light of truth and reason. Whatever merit osteopathy may have will assuredly find recognition. The present contention is, that in the bill before me the necessary requirements and safeguards with which the law surrounds the physically afflicted are thrown down and swept away. . . .

From an article on Iodid of Potash Eruptions:

. . . Case demonstrated by Dr. Douglas W. Montgomery (through the courtesy of Dr. L. W. Allen) of a tuberculous iodid of potash eruption, presented before the Academy of Medicine, February 24, 1903. . . .

. . . In reply to a question as to external treatment, Doctor Montgomery said:

"There is no treatment but the withdrawal of the drug. In about five weeks the iodid rash will subside, leaving nothing, but in some cases, scars, which may be cribriform. . . ."

From the minutes of the thirty-third annual session of the Medical Society of the State of California, held at the Potter Hotel, Santa Barbara, April 21-23, 1903:

. . . Election of officers:

Doctor Kerr placed in nomination the name of Dr. H. Bert Ellis for the office of president for the ensuing year, calling attention to his long service in the state society. . . .

. . . Dr. J. Henry Barbat nominated for the office of first vice-president, Dr. W. H. Flint of Santa Barbara. . . .

. . . For the office of secretary Doctor Brainerd placed in nomination Dr. George H. Evans. . . .

. . . For treasurer Dr. J. Henry Barbat nominated Dr. E. E. Kelly. Nominations closed and secretary cast the ballot. . . .

. . . Board of Medical Examiners, Dudley Tait, San Francisco; F. M. Pottenger, Los Angeles; D. E. Osborne, St. Helena; W. S. Thorne, San Francisco; and S. H. Buteau, Oakland, were placed in nomination. . . .

. . . For delegates to American Medical Association, Drs. C. G. Kenyon and Philip Mills Jones were nominated and elected to serve with Dr. H. Bert Ellis, elected last year.

From the article on "Tropical Diseases in California" by Dr. William Watt Kerr, professor of clinical medicine, University of California:

. . . Address in medicine.

Mr. President and Members of the Medical Society of the State of California: An opportunity such as this may be profitably utilized by making reference to the increasing frequency with which some diseases that a few years ago were practically unknown to us are now found in San Francisco and, I presume, in every seaport town on the Pacific Coast. . . .

. . . Plague has been so thoroughly discussed, both in the medical and lay press, that it is not necessary to say much about it at this time. Unfortunately the great weight of expert testimony in this state, and all of that supplied by the federal authorities, goes to prove that plague has existed in sporadic form in California.

To an onlooker the situation in San Francisco is somewhat ludicrous. In February, 1901, the federal authorities sent the Barker, Flexner, Novey commit-

tee, who reported on the existence of plague; next they sent Flint, who made a similar report; he was followed by White, who was instructed to report independently to the Treasury Department all cases of plague that came under his observation; but still the people were dissatisfied, and Surgeon-General Wyman visited California last December, and expressed himself satisfied as to the accuracy of the reports furnished by his subordinate officers. Nevertheless, at a meeting of merchants held a few weeks later, it was again suggested that the federal authorities be requested to send an unbiased committee to San Francisco. . . .

. . . The situation, however, is serious, so far as the commercial interests of the state are concerned, but the peril to them comes not so much from bubonic plague, as from the plague of the daily press. The poor policy followed by some of our newspapers in heaping abuse upon the local health authorities, together with the peculiar conduct of members of the state and city governments, has awakened suspicion in other parts of the country that something is being concealed, and there is a manifest want of confidence in California which competing states have not been slow to use to their own advantage. . . .

* * *

. . . One of the most notable features of clinical medicine during the last two years is the number of patients who have come under observation suffering from various intestinal parasites, hitherto unknown in California. . . .

From an item on Medical Education:

. . . The profession of medicine need not feel shame at any inquiry into the character of its regular practitioners, but only the self-satisfied among us would assert that even a higher level may not be attained. Considering the matter from the viewpoint of the profession, nothing could be more wholesome than a high standard of requirement for admission to membership in a body that has always been regarded by the public as one of general culture and intelligence. . . .

CALIFORNIA BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

By C. B. PINKHAM, M. D.
Secretary of the Board

According to reports an individual calling himself Mohammed Ali, and falsely claiming graduation from the medical department of the University of California, has recently been making public addresses in Indiana.

Investigation reports relate that Mr. Edward C. Asher, business manager of the Industrial Injury Staff, has recently opened a ten-room office in the Howard Building, San Francisco, and is reported as also conducting a similar office in Oakland and having affiliation with Doctor Early, an industrial surgeon in Los Angeles. The business card reads: "In case of accident to any employee, send him to or telephone Industrial Injury Staff doctors." This appears to be another instance of a corporation practicing medicine, the business being conducted by laymen who pay a small monthly salary to licensed physicians and surgeons.

According to reports Matthus Blankenburg, self-styled "Lord Heir of the Old Castle of Blankenburg," entered a plea of guilty to a charge of violation of the Medical Practice Act in the Superior Court, Riverside, California, on March 3, 1928, and was sentenced to pay a fine of \$300. On failure to pay said fine he will find it necessary to serve 150 days in the county jail. (Prior mention, "News Items," February 1928.) "When some of his asserted patients died he allegedly furnished the State Board of Health with crude death certificates penciled on coarse writing paper and usu-

ally carrying the following asserted wording: 'M. P. Sanchez died this afternoon at 2:30 of the T. B. He was too far gone.'" Another certificate introduced in evidence said: "This is to certify . . . died today at ten minutes after three o'clock. He was too far gone. Your truly."

Reports of the continued theft of physicians' bags from their automobiles relate that drug addicts are believed to commit the thefts as narcotics are always extracted.

Charles A. Bailey, M. D., of Los Angeles was, after formal hearing on narcotic charges held before the Board of Medical Examiners February 29, 1928, placed on one year probation with the understanding that he would surrender his narcotic permit.

At a regular meeting of the Board of Medical Examiners held in Los Angeles the license of John Elmer Baker, M. D., was on February 29, 1928, revoked after a formal hearing based on narcotic charges.

The license of J. F. Balzer, Los Angeles naturopath, was revoked by the Board of Medical Examiners February 28, 1928, based on his conviction and incarceration in San Quentin prison.

"The question of what constitutes 'moral turpitude' as defined in Section 14 of the Medical Practice Act; became an issue in the case of Fred J. Barnett, M. D., Los Angeles physician, convicted last October in the municipal court of Los Angeles of selling liquor illegally. After a formal hearing before the Board of Medical Examiners on March 1, 1928, the case was continued to the July 1928 meeting."

A petition of Percy Purviance, Berkeley chiropractic head, asking that Governor C. C. Young be restrained from making appointments to the State Board of Chiropractics has been stricken from the court records of Judge Louis Ward. Judge Ward advised Purviance yesterday that no restraining order could be issued against Governor Young until such time as the appointments were made, and then could be directed against the appointees to prevent their taking office. (Oakland *Tribune*, March 6, 1928.)

"Bishop" E. R. Cook, head of the Oakland Christian Psychosophy Institute, is in San Quentin, starting his term of five years to life, imprisonment for second degree murder in connection with the death of Mrs. Elizabeth Buckles on December 20 following an illegal operation. . . . Edwin van Dickeson, who under the alias of Dr. I. A. Cole is also charged with the murder of Mrs. Buckles, is in jail awaiting trial. He was arrested in Buffalo, New York, where he fled following the death of the woman. (Oakland *Tribune*, February 23, 1928.)

Dr. George H. Coulthard, 303 Pacific Avenue, turned his face weeping before Judge Henry M. Willis, who admitted the physician to probation yesterday morning after conviction a few weeks ago on a charge of violating the State Poison Act, in selling of morphin to one Henry Warner, said to be a dope addict and a state special agent employed by the pharmaceutical board. . . . Doctor Coulthard was found guilty by the jury of sale of morphin to the said Special Agent Warner on December 13, 1927. The jury found the physician not guilty of two additional counts of the complaint. (Long Beach *Sun*, February 26, 1928.)

The board found Dr. James A. Hadley of Arcata guilty of having performed an illegal operation. The young girl patient in the case died shortly after she had received treatment. Doctor Hadley was tried at Eureka for first degree murder in connection with the death, but a jury freed him. The board tried him for the asserted operation and revoked his license (March 1, 1928). He admitted treating the girl, but denied performing such an operation. (Los Angeles *Times*, March 2, 1928.)